IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. (original) The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. (original) The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-5, 9-15, 19-24, 28-30, 36-41, 46-51, 55-59, and 61-66, without prejudice or disclaimer, and AMEND claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 25, 26, 42, 43, 52, and 60, in accordance with the following:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) An audio recording medium, comprising:

a plurality of tracks;

audio data recorded in the plurality of tracks; and

identification data for indicating a start position of each of the tracks recorded in write units segregated from the audio data in the plurality of tracks, ~~The audio recording medium of claim 5~~

wherein each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data, a mute period for the mute data is equal to or shorter than the duration of a single one of the AOBUs, and ~~wherein~~ the mute period has a duration from a track start point to an end of the AOBU with mute data, and the mute period is varied by moving a location of the track start point.

7. (currently amended) An audio recording medium, comprising:

a plurality of tracks;

audio data recorded in the plurality of tracks; and

identification data for indicating a start position of each of the tracks recorded in write units segregated from the audio data in the plurality of tracks, ~~The audio recording medium of claim 4~~

wherein each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data, and ~~wherein~~ a mute period for the mute data is

longer than the duration of a single one of the AOBUs, and a number of the AOBUs with mute data in each track is determined such that a sum of a duration of each of the AOBUs with mute data in each track is equal to or slightly longer than the mute period.

8. (original) The audio recording medium of claim 7, wherein the mute period includes a period from a track start point to an end of a last one of the AOBUs among the plurality of the AOBUs with mute data in each track, and the mute period is varied by moving the location of the track start point.

9-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method of recording data in a plurality of tracks of a recording medium, and reproducing data from the recording medium, the method comprising:

recording identification data indicating a start position of each of the tracks in predetermined write units in the plurality of tracks;

recording audio data in write units segregated from the predetermined write units of the identification data in the plurality of tracks;

reading and reproducing the identification data recorded in the predetermined write units; and

reading and reproducing the audio data recorded in the write units segregated from the predetermined write units of the identification data~~The method of claim 15~~,

wherein the recording of the identification data comprises recording the identification data in at least one write unit at a start of each of the tracks, each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data, a mute period for the mute data is equal to or shorter than a duration of a single one of the AOBUs, and ~~wherein~~ the mute period includes a duration from a track start point to an end of the AOBU with mute data, the method further comprising varying the mute period by moving a location of the track start point.

17. (currently amended) A method of recording data in a plurality of tracks of a recording medium, and reproducing data from the recording medium, the method

comprising:

recording identification data indicating a start position of each of the tracks in predetermined write units in the plurality of tracks;

recording audio data in write units segregated from the predetermined write units of the identification data in the plurality of tracks;

reading and reproducing the identification data recorded in the predetermined write units; and

reading and reproducing the audio data recorded in the write units segregated from the predetermined write units of the identification data,~~The method of claim 14,~~

wherein the recording of the identification data comprises recording the identification data in at least one write unit at a start of each of the tracks, each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data, and a mute period for the mute data is longer than the duration of a single one of the AOBUs, and a number of the AOBUs with mute data in each track is determined such that a sum of the duration of each of the AOBUs with audio data in each track is equal to or slightly longer the mute period.

18. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the mute period includes a duration from a track start point to an end of a last one of AOBUs among the plurality of the AOBUs with mute data, the method further comprising varying the mute period by moving a location of the track start point.

19-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A method of reproducing data recorded in a plurality of tracks of a recording medium, the method comprising:

reading and reproducing identification data indicating a start position of each of the tracks, the identification data having been recorded in write units in the tracks of the recording medium;

reading and reproducing audio data having been recorded in write units segregated from the write units of the identification data in the tracks of the recording medium, wherein the identification data have been recorded in at least one write unit at

a start of each of the tracks and each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data; ~~The method of claim 24, further comprising~~

performing a mute operation for a mute period, wherein the mute period for the mute data is equal to or shorter than a duration of a single AOBUs; and

varying the mute period by moving a location of a track start point, wherein the mute period includes a duration from the track start point to an end of the AOBU with mute data.

26. (currently amended) A method of reproducing data recorded in a plurality of tracks of a recording medium, the method comprising:

reading and reproducing identification data indicating a start position of each of the tracks, the identification data having been recorded in write units in the tracks of the recording medium;

reading and reproducing audio data having been recorded in write units segregated from the write units of the identification data in the tracks of the recording medium, wherein the identification data have been recorded in at least one write unit at a start of each of the tracks and each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data; and ~~The method of claim 23, further comprising~~

performing a mute operation for a mute period, wherein the mute period for the mute data is longer than a duration of a single one of the AOBUs, and a number of the AOBUs with mute data in each track is determined such that a sum of a duration of each of the AOBUs in each track is equal to or slightly longer than the mute period.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, further comprising varying the mute period by moving a location of a track start point, wherein the mute period includes a duration from the track start point to an end of a last one of the AOBUs among the plurality of the AOBUs with mute data in each track, and the mute period is varied by moving a location of the track start point.

28-30. (canceled)

31. (original) A method of recording data in a plurality of tracks of a recording medium, and reproducing data from the recording medium, the method comprising:

determining whether there is a need to record identification data indicating a start position of each of the tracks in a corresponding one of the tracks;

if recording of the identification data is needed, recording the identification data in the corresponding track in at least one write unit; and

recording audio data in the corresponding track in at least one write unit segregated from the at least one write unit of the identification data.

32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the recording of the audio data comprises recording the identification data in the at least one write unit at a start of each of the tracks.

33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein the recording of the audio data comprises recording the audio data in the at least one write unit, following the at least one write unit of the identification data.

34. (original) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

reading and reproducing the identification data recorded in the at least one write unit at a start of each of the tracks; and

successively reading the audio data recorded in the at least one write unit, following the identification data, and reproducing the read audio data.

35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data.

36-41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) An apparatus for recording data in a plurality of tracks of a recording medium, in which identification data indicating a start position of each of the tracks are recorded in write units in each of the tracks, and audio data are recorded

in write units segregated from the write units of the identification data in each of the tracks, wherein the apparatus records the identification data in the at least one write unit at a start of each of the tracks and the apparatus records the audio data in the at least one write unit, following the at least one write unit with the identification data, comprising: ~~The apparatus of claim 41~~

a write unit generator generating the at least one write unit audio data, and the at least one write unit with the identification data;

a write portion writing each of the at least one write unit with the audio data and the at least one write unit with the identification data in the corresponding tracks; and

a controller outputting a command to the write operation to instruct generation of the at least one write unit with the identification data to the write portion,

wherein each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data, the controller outputs a track start point to the writing portion, the track start point allowing a mute period for the mute data to be equal to or shorter than a duration of a single one of the AOBUs with the mute data, the write portion writes the track start point from the controller in a reproduction control information area of the recording medium, and ~~wherein~~ the mute period includes a duration from the track start point to an end of the AOBU with mute data, and the mute period is varied by moving the location of the track start point.

43. (currently amended) An apparatus for recording data in a plurality of tracks of a recording medium, in which identification data indicating a start position of each of the tracks are recorded in write units in each of the tracks, and audio data are recorded in write units segregated from the write units of the identification data in each of the tracks, wherein the apparatus records the identification data in the at least one write unit at a start of each of the tracks and the apparatus records the audio data in the at least one write unit, following the at least one write unit with the identification data, comprising: ~~The apparatus of claim 40~~

a write unit generator generating the at least one write unit audio data, and the at least one write unit with the identification data;

a write portion writing each of the at least one write unit with the audio data and the at least one write unit with the identification data in the corresponding tracks; and

a controller outputting a command to the write operation to instruct generation of the at least one write unit with the identification data to the write portion,

wherein each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data, ~~wherein:~~ the controller outputs a track start point to the writing portion, the track start point allowing a mute period for the mute data to be longer than a duration of a single one of the AOBUs, and the controller outputs information on a number of the AOBUs with mute data corresponding to the mute period to the write unit generator,~~;~~ and the write unit generator generates the number of AOBUs with mute data according to the information from the controller.

44. (original) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the mute period includes a duration from the track start point to an end of a last one of AOBUs among the AOBUs with mute data in each track, and the controller varies the mute period by moving the location of the track start point in response to an input from a user.

45. (original) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the write generator determines the number of the AOBUs with mute data such that a sum of a duration of each of the AOBUs with mute data in each track is equal to or slightly longer than the mute period.

46-51. (canceled)

52. (currently amended) An apparatus for reproducing data recorded in a plurality of tracks of a recording medium, in which identification data recorded in predetermined write units to indicate a start position of each of the tracks are read from each of the tracks and reproduced, and audio data recorded in write units segregated from the write units of the identification data are read from each of the tracks and reproduced, wherein the apparatus reads and reproduces the identification data recorded in at least one of the write units at the start of each of the tracks and the apparatus reads and reproduces the audio data recorded following the identification data in at least one of the write units segregated from the at least one write unit of the identification data, comprising:~~The apparatus of claim 51~~

a controller outputting a command to instruct reading of the identification data or

the audio data recorded in the corresponding at least one write unit;

a reading portion reading the identification data or the audio data recorded in the corresponding at least one write unit, according to the command from the controller; and

a reproduction portion receiving and reproducing the identification data or the audio data from the reading portion,

wherein each write unit includes an audio object unit (AOBU), and the identification data includes mute data, the controller outputs reproduction control information corresponding to an input from a user to the reading portion, the reading portion searches for the AOBU having a track start point in a corresponding track, finds a location of the track start point in the found AOBU, read data from the track start point in the corresponding track, and outputs the read data to the reproduction portion, and ~~wherein~~ a mute period for the mute data includes a duration from the track start point to an end of the AOBU with mute data, and the controller varies the mute period by moving the location of the track start point in response to an input from a user.

53. (original) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein once the reading portion reads the AOBU with the mute data and outputs the read AOBU to the reproduction portion, the reproduction portion mutes outputs for the mute period.

54. (original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein once the AOBU with mute data is read by the reading portion, the controller outputs a mute command to the reproduction portion, and the reproduction portion performs a mute operation according to the mute command from the controller.

55-59. (canceled)

60. (currently amended) A method of recording data on an audio recording medium having a plurality of tracks, comprising:

recording mute data in at least one write unit in each of the tracks; and

recording audio data in at least one write unit in each of the tracks so as to be segregated from the at least one write unit of the mute data, ~~The method of claim 59,~~

wherein: the recording of the mute data comprises determining whether a mute period is required in recording a new one of the tracks, determining a number of the write units of mute data to be recorded in the new track, recording the number of write units of the mute data in the new track, andwriting the mute period in a reproduction control information area of the audio recording medium,; and wherein the recording of the audio data comprises writing the audio data following the mute data in the new track.

61-66. (canceled)